

and non-cost elements. Of six proposals received, the selected contractor represented the best qualified and least costly.

(2) The report fails to mention that the Willamette River, one of the 14 American Heritage rivers, has new thermal load restrictions placed upon treatment plants to protect and recover threatened and endangered salmon fish species as well as other water quality regulations.

(3) The report fails to mention that the wastewater treatment plant serving the cities of Albany and Millersburg and ATI Wah Chang must construct additional wastewater treatment capital facilities to comply with the regulations.

(4) The report failed to note that the project is a unique industrial/municipal partnership, between the cities of Albany, Millersburg, and ATI Wah Chang with the industrial partner contributing its share of capital.

(5) The report failed to note that this project provides a secure and environmentally-sound wastewater treatment solution for ATI Wah Chang, a major local employer and significant rare metals industry in the United States. This project protects the jobs at this industry that would have been put at risk had a cost-effective treatment solution not been found.

(6) The report fails to mention that the project is the least-cost alternative that requires the smallest ratepayer increases to comply with the regulations.

(7) The report failed to mention that this project received an Honor Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers for Excellence in Environmental Engineering.

(8) The report failed to say that the project will provide employment for an estimated 100 people in diverse sectors: electricians, mechanics, pipe layers, and excavators; surveyors, engineers and construction managers; raw material and equipment suppliers for the pipe, pumps, rock, concrete, asphalt, wiring, steel and other materials; landscapers and nurseries. These jobs are needed in Linn County, where 15.1% unemployment far exceeds the U.S. (10.2%) and Oregon (11.3%) seasonally adjusted rates as reported in the December 2009 Benton/Linn Labor Trends Report for October.

Talking Water Gardens is a shining example of how to balance the needs of the environment with the needs of cities and American industries to preserve jobs in these tough economic times. Many, many people have worked hard to make this project happen and singling it out for criticism without verified foundation is shameful at a time when we all need to be working together.

Sincerely,

SHARON KONOPA,  
Mayor.

#### JUNIOR SERVICE CLUB 75TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of an important community organization in Collinsville, Illinois.

The Junior Service Club has worked for three quarters of a century to better the lives of the children in the community. The group's volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide fun activities for the community's youth. Over

the decades, they ensured the children had a good meal during the holidays and have taught them the value of service to one's neighbors.

The club's fundraising efforts have gone to benefit hospitals, fire victims, community parks, senior programs and scholarships for graduates of Collinsville High School. Today, the club consists of about 50 members. Many of the volunteers are teachers who represent the third generation of their family to belong to the Junior Service Club.

I want to join with the members of this House in congratulating the members of the Collinsville Junior Service Club on celebrating their 75th anniversary and thank them for their service. I want to wish them another 75 years of continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, December 15, 2009, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote 971. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 971.

#### THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF CHARLES A. TEALE, SR., FROM THE HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Charles A. Teale, Sr., of the Hartford Fire Department who is retiring after serving 27 years—9 of those as its chief.

In his years of service, Chief Teale has gained a reputation as a fair, no-nonsense administrator who helped to restore order and stability to the Hartford Fire Department. Under his watch, the Hartford Fire Department maintained its Class 1 status, a designation shared by only 41 of 38,000 departments across the country. Among Teale's many accomplishments is his emphasis on attaining high educational and professional standards. Due to the department's educational outreach, the number of structure fires in Hartford decreased from 366 in 2001 to just 80 in 2008.

In one of his proudest accomplishments, Teale showed a dedication to the community he served that extended far beyond his duties as fire chief. He worked as co-chairman of a committee that raised \$125,000 to create a memorial to the 168 people who died in the Hartford circus fire of July 6, 1944. Motivated by the conviction that a memorial had to be created before the generation that remembered one of Connecticut's worst disasters passed on, Teale dedicated the beautiful memorial in 2005, on the 61st anniversary of the fire.

Chief Teale's own story is truly remarkable. He dropped out of school at age 14, but returned and excelled, thanks to the mentoring

of legendary Hartford educator Walter "Doc" Hurley. He went on to earn multiple advanced degrees, including a master's in public administration from the University of Hartford. Chief Teale's passion for learning is everlasting, and after retirement he plans to pursue a doctorate in psychology, which will help him empower Hartford's young men to make smart choices as they enter adulthood, just as Doc Hurley influenced him.

The residents of Hartford and Connecticut's First Congressional District are indebted to Chief Teale for his extensive efforts to serve the Greater Hartford community. His dedication to Hartford and its history, as well as his ability to lead, have made him not just an outstanding fire chief but an exceptional ambassador for the city. His fire boots will be hard to fill, but we wish him well on his admirable goals of returning to school and serving as a mentor to the young men in Hartford.

#### JUDGE DOROTHY SPOMER

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Dorothy Spomer, who broke barriers as she served on the bench in Southern Illinois. Judge Spomer was recently honored at Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Inspiring Women Gala.

Judge Spomer graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1943, at the age of 22. Throughout her historic career, she set an example for other young women as the first female judge in Alexander County, the first female circuit judge in the First Judicial Circuit and the first woman to sit on the appellate court in the Fifth District.

A dedicated public servant, Judge Spomer came out of retirement in 1977, when Illinois Supreme Court Justice Joseph Goldenhersch called on her to serve on the appellate court in Mount Vernon.

Judge Spomer's example inspired her son, Judge Stephen Spomer, to carry on the proud family tradition of public service as he presides over the same Fifth District Appellate Court.

I would like to join Southern Illinois University Carbondale, as they honor her at their Inspiring Women Gala, in thanking Judge Dorothy Spomer for her lifelong service to Southern Illinois.

#### HONORING LIAM McLAUGHLIN

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Liam McLaughlin is leaving the Yonkers City Council after serving four terms, representing the Fourth District since 1999. He served as Majority Leader of the City Council and is leaving as the Minority Leader and Chair of the Budget Committee and the Environmental Policy & Protection Committee.

He also served on the Education Committee, the Real Estate & Economic Development Committee, the Municipal Operations

Committee, the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Legislation and Codes Committee.

He graduated from Fordham University in 1989, majoring in accounting, and worked for the major accounting firm of Ernst & Young before taking his law degree from the New York Law School.

As a council member Liam worked with the mayor and fellow council members on a bipartisan basis for the betterment of his district and the City of Yonkers as a whole. He strove to hold down taxes, to create jobs, to improve the city's parks and playgrounds, increase senior citizen programs and implement a city-wide beautification program. He encouraged 'smart development' to make Yonkers attractive to new businesses which brought many new jobs to the city.

Aside from his representation on the council, he is a Board Member of the Aisling Irish Community Center, a Board Member and President of Tara Circle, a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Westchester Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and a member of the New York State Bar Association.

I congratulate Liam for all of his good work and diligence in representing not only his district and its families, but the City of Yonkers as a whole. I was privileged to be able to work with him in helping Yonkers and know first hand that Yonkers is enormously better for having him. I know his family will be happier now that he will not have as many meetings to attend but the City of Yonkers will sorely miss his leadership and dedication. I wish him the best in all his endeavors and am looking forward to his return to office.

#### ST. MARY'S GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL CENTENNIAL

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a century of service from an institution of healing in Centralia, Illinois.

St. Mary's Hospital opened on Thanksgiving Day in 1909 and has been serving the Centralia area since. As the city grew, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and the Felician Sisters worked to meet the medical needs of the growing population. In 1958, the hospital moved to a new 117-bed facility on Pleasant Avenue, where it went through 3 expansions 1969 to 1981.

In 1996, St. Mary's Hospital merged with Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in nearby Mt. Vernon. With the merger, they entered the 21st Century at the forefront of medical care. Over the last 100 years, the people at St. Mary's have not forgotten their core mission and have served our community with a level of devotion that is second to none.

I want to join with the members of this House and the residents of South Central Illinois in congratulating St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital on celebrating its centennial. I want to thank them for their healing ministry and to wish them continued success for the next hundred years.

#### RICHARD ALGER FLORIDA AGRICULTURE'S MAN OF THE YEAR

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2009*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give my heartfelt congratulations to Richard Alger on his recent induction into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Being named to the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame is a high honor, because it is the closest thing we have in South Florida to being named agriculture's man of the year.

With his very strong educational background, gregarious personality and true compassion for our community, Richard has been a strong voice for farming for over four decades.

Richard made his mark through his assistance to minority farmers in our area, as a board member of Farm Credit of South Florida; a generous contributor to the Farm Share program; and for working with the University of Florida on agricultural research.

I am pleased to join the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber, Jolayne, his family, including 17 grandkids, friends and neighbors in their celebration of his countless contributions.

#### HONORING TOM MCROBERTS

#### HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2009*

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Tom McRoberts on the occasion of his retirement from the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM). During his career of over 34 years with the University, Tom has served several communities as an administrator, mentor, and innovative educator. These titles are unable to capture the full measure of Tom's contribution to the University, local community, the state of Minnesota.

Tom is tireless in his efforts to expand learning opportunities. His ingenuity has never been bound by his official titles of Director of Continuing Education and Regional Programs, Director of the Center for Small Towns, Director of the Center for International Programs, and the other positions he's held over the years. Tom has served as a mentor and academic advisor to numerous students who have gone on to obtain internships and jobs in the public service arena and win prestigious national scholarships. He has been instrumental in developing programs to connect the University to the local community and to open the world for exploration by the students he has so faithfully served, including establishing the UMM Center for International Programs and creating the UMM Summer Scholars program for gifted high school juniors from around the region, soon to be in its twenty-sixth year.

Over the years, Tom has been recognized for his remarkable contributions with a number of honors, including the all-University John Tate Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising, the UMM Academic Staff Award, the College of Continuing Education Deans Award

for Individual Achievement, and the University of Minnesota Presidents Award for Outstanding Service.

This impressive record of service doesn't begin to describe the man. As his colleagues and students note, Tom is modest, compassionate, and blessed with a good sense of humor. One close colleague has described Tom as a specialist in making things happen without claiming credit. He accepts assignments others won't take. He sees opportunities to do good and he takes them and when these aren't obvious, he creates them. Tom has truly made walking the extra mile a way of life, achieving a legacy of accomplishments that will pay dividends for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations and appreciation to Tom McRoberts for the extraordinary career at the University of Minnesota Morris.

#### SPRINGFIELD SENATORS—CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONS

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of an outstanding group of student-athletes from Springfield, Illinois.

The Springfield Senators girls cross country team took the state championship at this year's Illinois High School Association state finals November 7 at Detweiller Park in Peoria. Springfield High finished with a score of 124, six better than the runners-up from Yorkville. The Senators were led by Kirby Hale, who had the fourth-best overall time for the tournament, finishing in 17:51.

I want to congratulate Coach Dan Devlin, Assistant Coach Trae Cotner and the members of the 2009 Springfield Senators state champion cross country team: Kirby Hale, Madie Alexander, Maggie Cornelius, Christy Rolf, Jessica Larson, Leora Reyhan, Sarah Ward, Giuliana Bailey, Christina Kropid, Julia McClure, Erin Shultz and Lauren Smith. They have represented themselves, their school and our community in a first-rate fashion. I want to join with my colleagues in this House in wishing them continued success in their future academic and athletic endeavors.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 16, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326, the Departments of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010.

Project Name: Synthetic Liquid Fuels

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Legal Name and address of entity receiving earmark: Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is